Understanding ISLAM



Through a Christian Lens



Course Outline

- What is Islam's world influence?
- How did we get here?
- Is Islam about peace? Do we worship the same God?
- How does Islam view God? Is Allah like our God?
- Who is Jesus Christ in Islamic teachings?
- Sin and Salvation, do we see differently?
- Islam's relationship to religion and culture?
- The Christian response to Islam



A Christian Lens Utilizes Holy Scripture As the Viewfinder

- In Holy Scripture we find **freedom** to live:

*and you will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will set you **free**." John 8:32*

- Through Scripture we learn not to **fear** what we cannot control:

But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. Luke 12:5-7

Other Scriptural Lenses for This Study

- *Let us make man in our own image, **after our likeness***……..Genesis 1:26a

- But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the lad and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your descendants be named. [13] **And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring**.” Genesis 21:12-13

- “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. [38] This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, **You shall love your neighbor as yourself** .*Matthew 22:36-39*

- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall **love your** neighbor and hate **your** enemy.’ But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of **your** Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. … Matthew 5:43-48

Why Is Knowing About Islam Important to Christians

- Truth will keep Christians from fear
- Progressive Media is not telling the truth
- Know about Islam and how it differs from Christianity

  builds in us a stronger faith and enables us to witness for

  Jesus Christ
- Islam is not going away……

Destroying them all is not the answer not matter how frightening this picture is……



Because these too are the People of the Crescent

There has never been a time since the 7th century Muslims have not lived with Jews and Christians. Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali

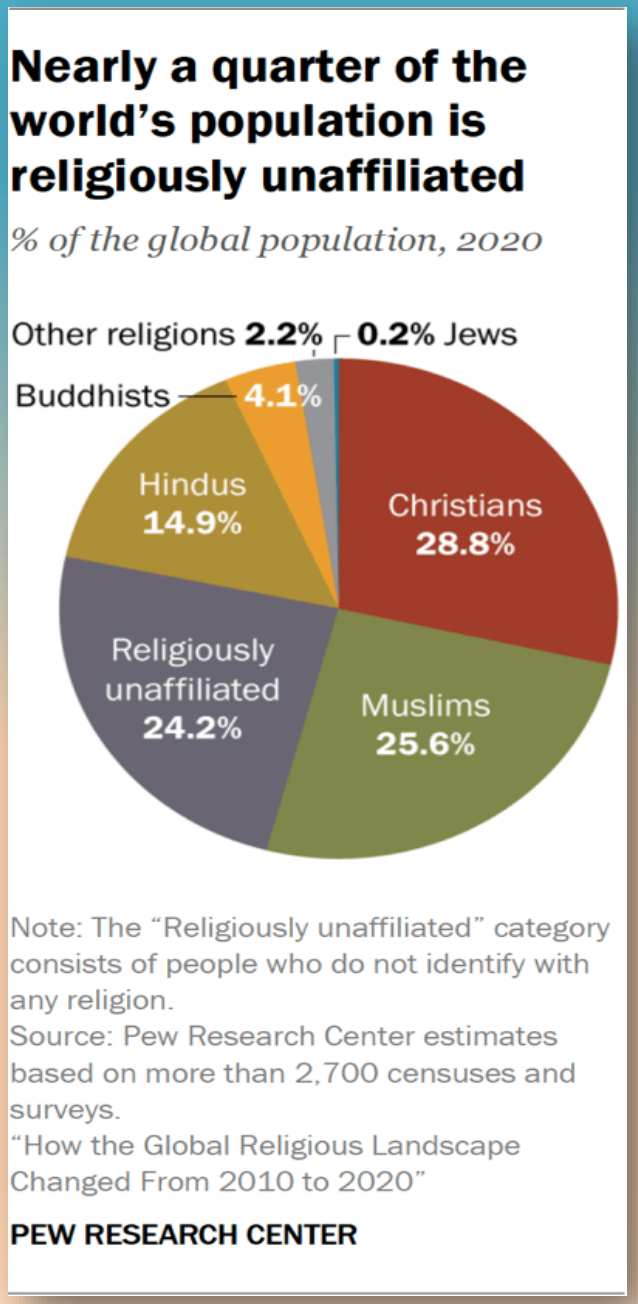


The World's Religions Today



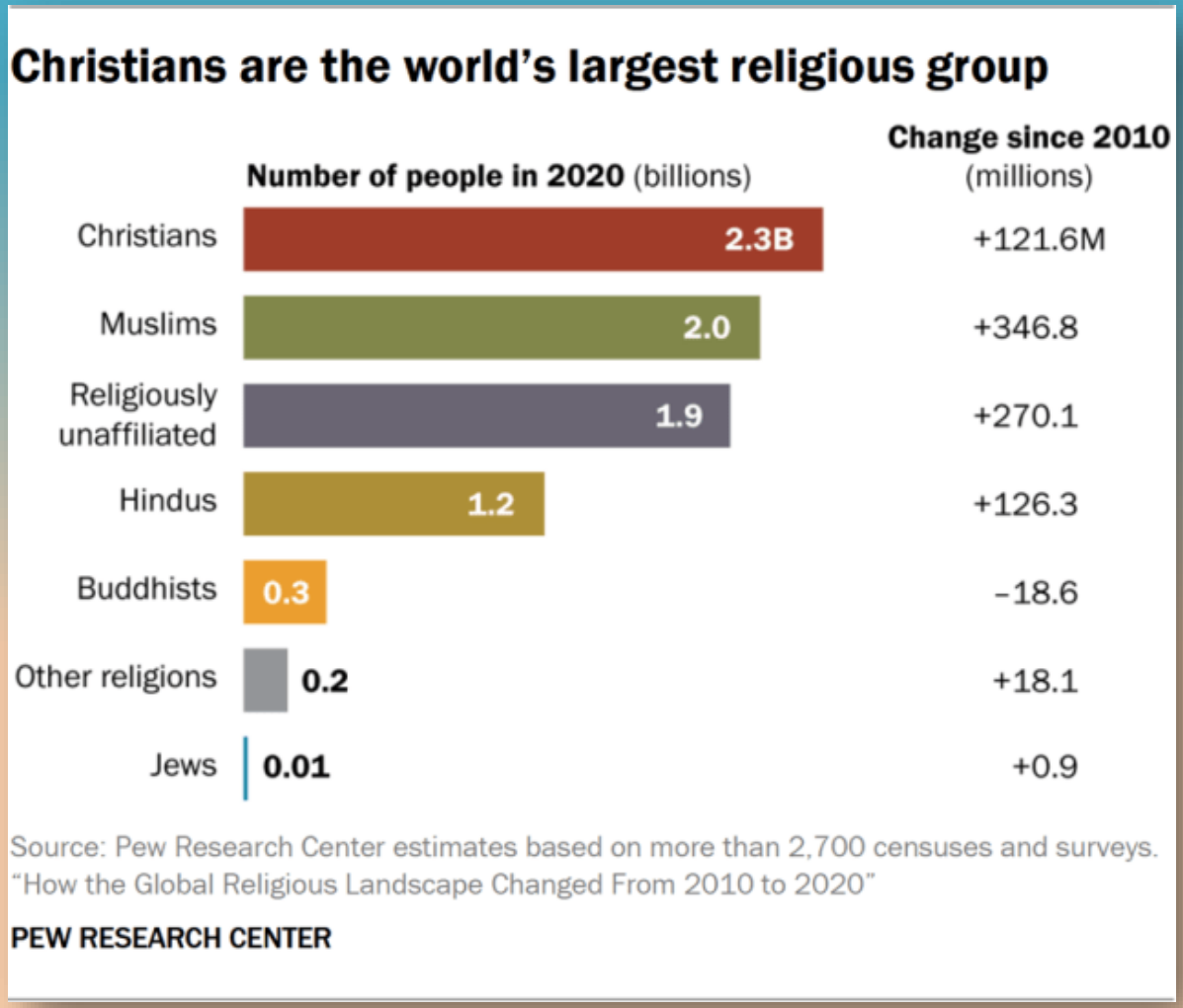
Religion by the numbers

- Christianity is still the largest % of the world's population.
- Challenged by Muslims and "Unaffiliated



Religion by the numbers

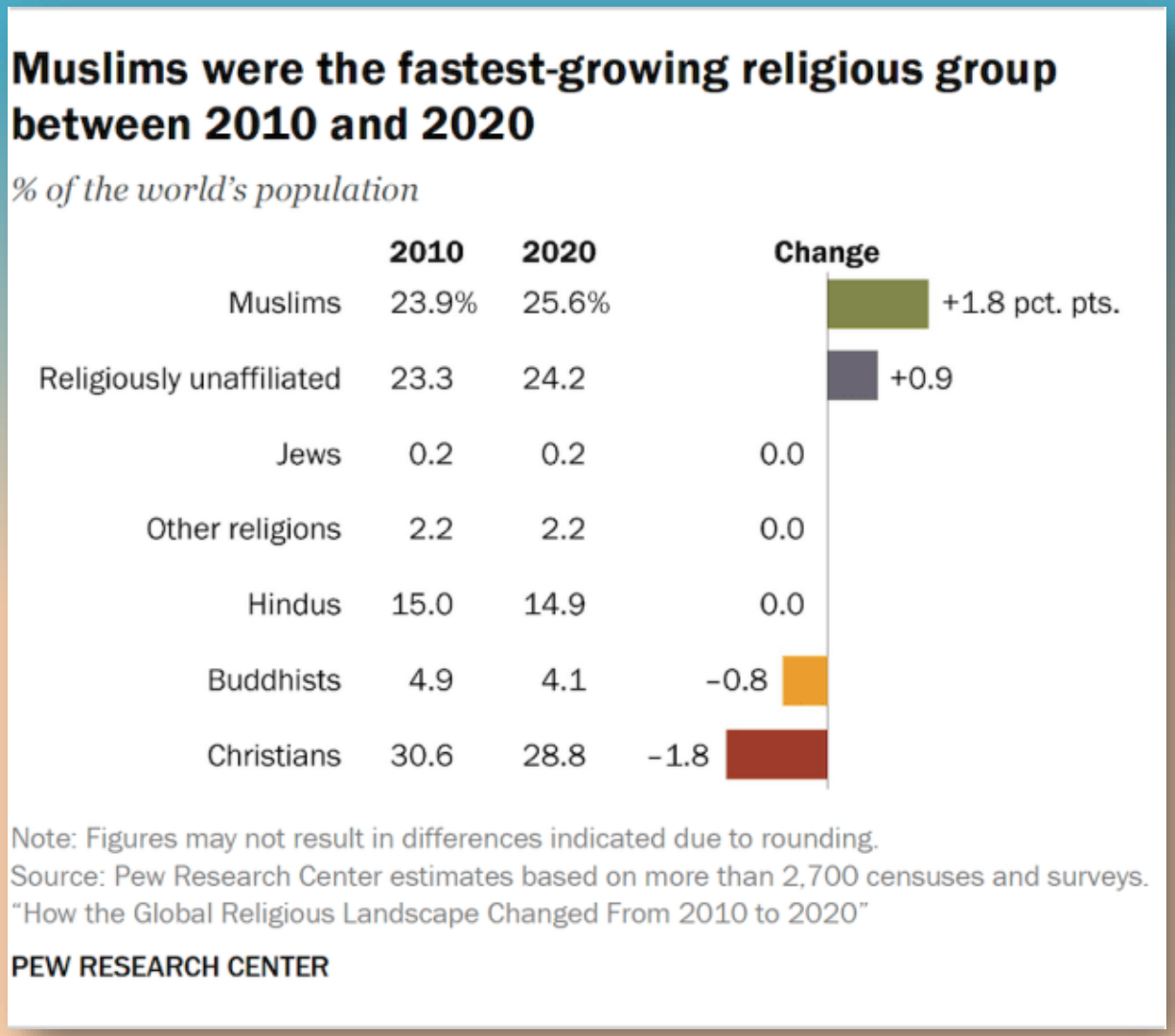
- The number of Christians rose by 122 million, reaching 2.3 billion
- But, as a share of the world's population, Christians *fell* 1.8 percentage points to 28.8%



Muslims were the fastest-growing religious group over the decade!

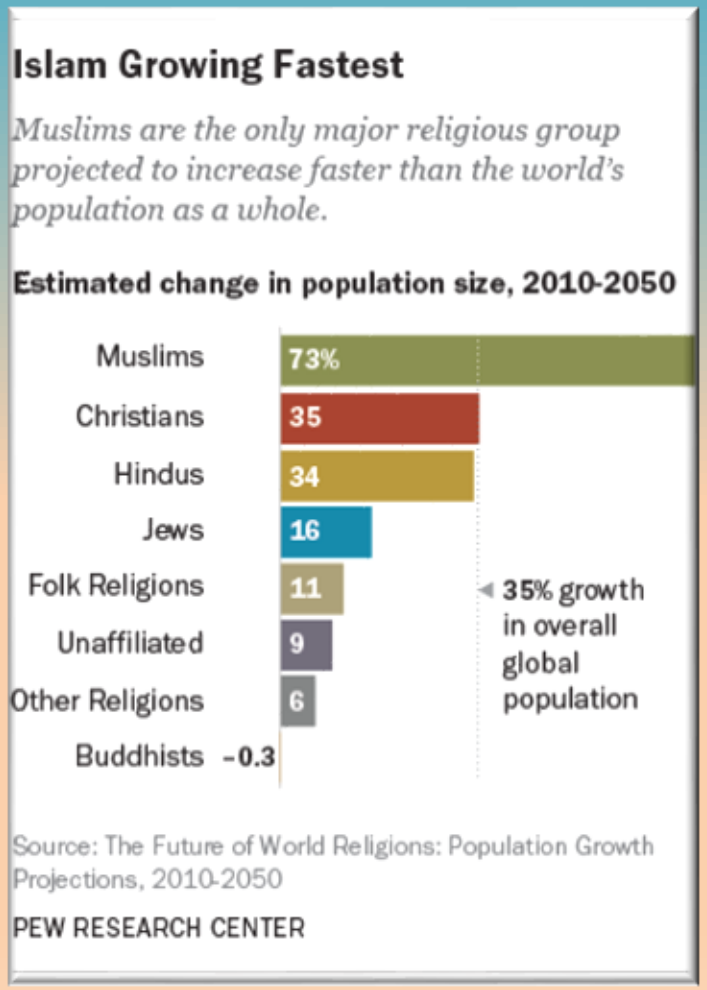
- The number of Muslims increased by more than 347 million
- Muslim share of population rose by 1.8 points

Religion by the Numbers



Religion by the numbers – the Future

- By 2050 the number of Muslims will nearly equal the number of Christians around the world.
- In Europe, Muslims will make up 10% of the overall population.
- India will retain a Hindu majority but also will have the largest Muslim population of any country in the world, surpassing Indonesia.
- In the United States, **Christians will decline from more than three-quarters of the population in 2010 to two-thirds in 2050**, and Judaism will no longer be the largest non-Christian religion. Muslims will be more numerous in the U.S. than people who identify as Jewish on the basis of religion.



Source:http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/



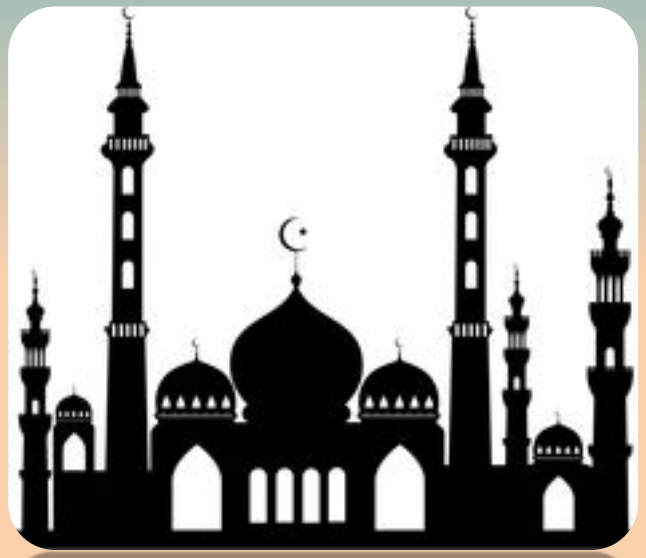
Constitutional Truth

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Constitution of the United States

The Origin of Islam



Key Dates in Islamic History

- 570 CE *Muhammad* is born
  - Marries Khadija
  - Receives visions in a cave near Mecca
- 610-622 Preaches in Mecca
- 622 1st *Hijra* in which *Muhammad* and followers flee Mecca to Medina
- 624 Muslims successfully attack Meccan caravans at Badr
- 625 Muslims defeated by Meccans at Uhud
- 630 Mecca is captured by Muhammad and followers: *Ka'ba* is cleansed, pilgramage rites are Islamicized, tribes of Arabia vow allegiance to Muhammad
- 632 Muhammad dies and *Abu Bakr* is chosen as caliph
- 632-633 Wars of *riddo* (apostasy) restoring allegiance to Islam – beginning the Muslim conquests (*Futhat*)
- 650 Caliph has the Qu'ran written down for the first time
- 680 Shia sect is founded

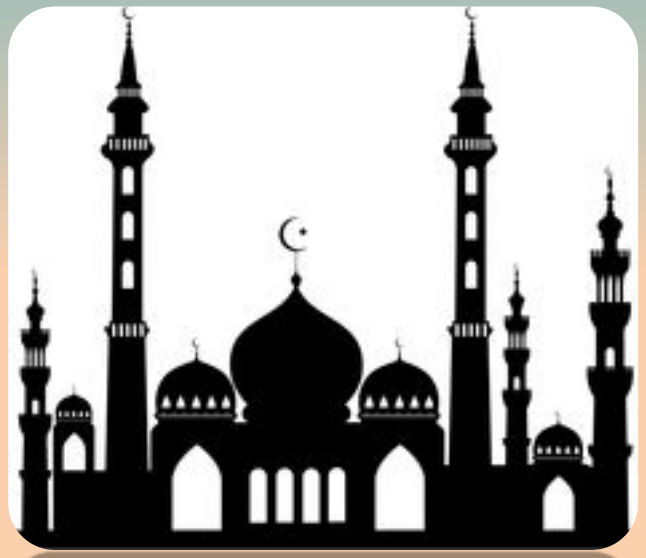


Key Dates in Islamic History

- **680-705 Reign of *Abd-al-Malik* who centralizes Islamic administration, establishes Arabic as the official written language replacing Greek and Persian and Arab coinage is established**
- **732 Muslim empire reaches its greatest point and repelled at the Battle of Tours**
- **800 *Hadith* is established – written collections of the sayings of the Prophet**
- **1126-98 *Averroes*, a Muslim philosopher from Cordova sought to integrate Islam with Greek thought. Islam goes dark.**

Islam is spread by violence consistent with its beginning……

Key Misconceptions of Islam



Is Islam about peace?

What is being said in the media is **not** all true: 1. “So let’s start with this fact: For more than a thousand years, people have been drawn to Islam’s message of peace. And the very word itself, “Islam” comes from “salam” – peace. 2. “**Jefferson and John Adams had their own copy of the Qur’an**. *Barak Obama*, speech at the Baltimore mosque February 3, 2016

So What is the Truth

- The word “Islam” means submission to Allah in particular
- The “Muslim” means ”one who submits.” All others are considered infidels.

Compare These Truths

- **Qur’an:** *Sura 47:35* So be not weak and ask not for peace (from the enemies of Islam), while you are having the upper hand. Allah is with you, and will never decrease the reward of your good deeds.

- **Scripture:** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. *John 14:27*

Islam on peace

Qur'an *Sura* 59:**1-4.** Whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is on the earth glorifies Allah. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

2. He it is Who drove out the **disbelievers among the people of the Scripture** (i.e. the Jews of the tribe of Bani An-Nadir) from their homes at the first gathering. You did not think that they would get out. And they thought that their fortresses would defend them from Allah! But Allah's (Torment) reached them from a place whereof they expected it not, and He cast terror into their hearts, so that they destroyed their own dwellings with their own hands and the hands of the believers. Then take admonition, O you with eyes (to see).

3. And had it not been that Allah had decreed exile for them, He would certainly have punished them in this world, and in the Hereafter theirs shall be the torment of the Fire.

4. That is because they opposed Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad). And whosoever opposes Allah, then verily, Allah is Severe in punishment.

Christianity on Peace

Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Islam is not a religion of “peace” as defined by Holy Scripture or the Constitution!

- In Islam peace is established when all have submitted to Allah through the teachings of Mohammed
- Christianity brings peace through the love of God and following His teachings.

Is Islam about peace?

- It is a religion of peace by our understanding of peace
- **In Islam peace is achieved when the all the world follows Allah and the precepts of Islam**
- In Christianity peace is found in following Christ and being at one with Him.
- It is a contrast of peace through domination versus love in Jesus Christ.

Do we worship the same God?

- By our understanding of peace we can begin to understand that we do not worship the same God
- Allah requires submission out of fear leading to total submission
- God asks for His love to be returned. It is a loving relationship
- The very nature of God in Islam versus Christianity is the opposite



Allah name of god by mawal 37 77



How does Islam view God?
Is Allah like our God?

Islam	Christianity
Distant and unknowable	Personal and knowable
Does not reveal himself – only reveals his will	Reveals himself through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ
Merciful depending on his mood	Loving and unchanging in His love
Capricious as he leads and misleads	God is always truthful
Vengeful	Just and loving
Almighty with the emphasis on power	Power is balanced by love
One god	Trinity: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
Creator	Created all things and man in His image



How does Islam view God?
Is Allah like our God as seen in the Qu'ran?

Can you know Allah?

Allah disdains not to give an illustration as small as a gnat or even smaller. Those who believe **know** that it is the truth from their Lord, while those who disbelieve say: 'What does **Allah** mean by such an illustration?' Many does He adjudge by it to be erring and many by it does He guide, and none does He adjudge thereby to be erring except the disobedient, *Sura Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 : Verse 27*

How does Allah reveal himself?

And those who have no knowledge say, 'Why **does** not **Allah** speak to us, or a Sign come to us?' Likewise said those before them similar to their saying. Their hearts are alike. We have certainly made the Signs plain for a people who firmly believe. *Sura Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 : Verse 119*

Merciful

And to **Allah** belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. **He forgives whomsoever He pleases and punishes whomsoever He pleases**, and **Allah** is Most Forgiving, **Merciful**. *Sura Aal-e-`Imran Chapter 3 : Verse 130*



How does Islam view God?
Is Allah like our God?

Guide

And none but angels have We made wardens of the Fire. And We have not fixed their number except as a trial for those who disbelieve, so that those who have been given the Book may attain to certainty, and those who believe may increase in faith, and those who have been given the Book as well as the believers may not doubt, and that those in whose hearts is disease and the disbelievers may say, 'What **does Allah** mean by such an illustration?' Thus **does Allah** adjudge astray whom He pleases and **guide** whom He pleases. And none knows the hosts of thy Lord but He. And this is nothing but a Reminder for **man** *Sura Al-Muddaththir Chapter 74 : Verse 32*

Vengeful

And there are some among men who take for themselves objects of worship other than **Allah**, loving them as they should love **Allah**. But those who believe are stronger in *their* love for **Allah** and if those who transgress could *now* see *the time* when they shall see the punishment, *they would realize* that all power belongs to **Allah** and that **Allah** is severe in punishing. *Sura Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 : Verse 166*

Almighty with emphasis on Power

Whatever Sign We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring one better than that or the like thereof. Dost thou not know that **Allah** has the power to do all that He wills? *Sura Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 : Verse 107*



How does Islam view God?
Is Allah like our God?

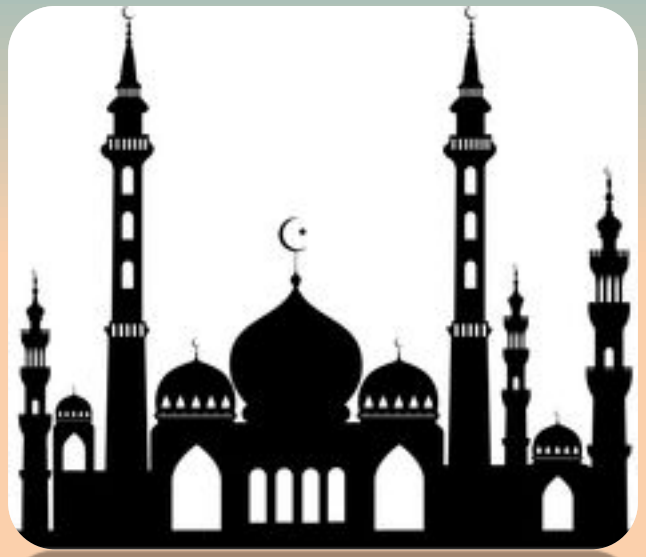
One God

O People of the Book, exceed not the limits in your religion, and say not of Allah anything but the truth. Verily, the Messiah, **Jesus**, son of Mary, was only a Messenger of Allah and *a fulfilment of* His word which He sent down to Mary, and a mercy from Him. So believe in Allah and His Messengers, and say not '*They are* three.' Desist, *it will be* better for you. Verily, Allah is the only One God. Far is it from His Holiness that He should have a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And sufficient is Allah as a Guardian. *Sura Al-Nisa' Chapter 4 : Verse 172*

Creator

Such is Allah, your Lord. There is no God but He, the **Creator** of all things, so worship Him. And He is Guardian over everything. **Al-An`am Chapter 6 : Verse 103**

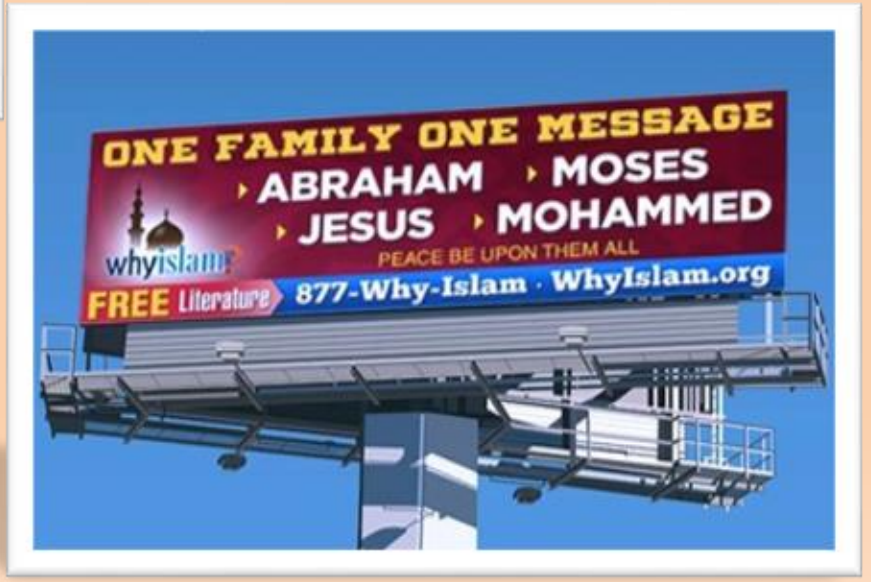
Who is Jesus Christ in Islamic teachings?



Who is Jesus Christ in Islamic teachings?



Is this Jesus from the New Testament?



Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed? How does the Qu'ran compare Jesus to these?

Who is Jesus Christ? *Isa*?

Islam	Christianity
1. Prophet or Messenger like Muhammad but lesser	Eternal Word of God
2. Son of Mary – spoken into being by Allah	Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit, incarnate from the Virgin Mary and made man
3. Jesus did not die. He was taken into heaven and was replaced to appear that he indeed was crucified	He suffered death and was buried rising on the third day and then ascending to heaven
4. Allah alone is judge and will do based on the good works	He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.



Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings

The Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings, Schirrmacher, RVB International, 2001, p.62

- Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary (19:16-33)
- He is "Word" of God and "Spirit of Him" (4:171)
- He is the Messiah. (3:45)
- He brings mankind a revelation, the Gospel. (injil; 5:110)
- He confirms the Torah (3:50)
- He is a prophet of God, but only a human being. He preaches faith in the One God. (5:175)
- He does miracles with God's permission. He heals the sick, raises the dead and gives life to inanimate matter. (5:110)
- He is only a human being. He does not want either Himself or His mother to be deified. (5:116-117)
- He is an example for mankind (43,57) and a revelation for mankind (19,21).



Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings

The Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings, Schirrmacher, RVB International, 2001, p.62

- He is a witness, who will testify at the Final Judgement against those who have refused to believe in Him. (4:149)
- He was created when God said, “Be!” (3:47, 19:21)
- He allowed some things forbidden by the Law of Moses. (3:50)
- He taught monotheism. (3:51)
- He differed from the Jews who wanted to kill Him. (3:54-55)
- He was commanded by God to offer Moslem prayers and to give alms. (19:31-32)
- He received God’s blessing. (19:31)
- He is “One brought close to God” (in Arabic: “muqarrab”), “one whom divine mercy has brought close to God.” 37
- He is without sin, as were all other prophets (according to Islalmic theology).



Islamic Errors About Jesus

The Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings, Schirrmacher, RVB International, 2001, p.63

- He did not die on the cross (3:54-55) but was lifted into Heaven by God (4:157-158)
- He did not rise again.
- He is not the Redeemer.
- He is called Messiah, but not the Anointed One announced in the Old Testament.
- He is neither God (5:17) nor a being similar to God, nor God's Son (4:171). He confirms this Himself (5:72)
- He is not Lord (in Arabic: "rabb"; 9:71)
- He is not the Second Person of the Trinity. (5:73)



ISLAM

Who is Jesus Christ in Islamic teachings?

Say ye: 'We believe in Allah and what has been revealed to us, and what was revealed to Abraham and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob and *his* children, and what was given to Moses and **Jesus**, and what was given to *all other* Prophets from their Lord. We make no difference between any of them; and to Him we submit ourselves.' **Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 : Verse 137**

O People of the Book, exceed not the limits in your religion, and say not of Allah anything but the truth. Verily, the Messiah, **Jesus**, son of Mary, was only a Messenger of Allah and *a fulfilment of* His word which He sent down to Mary, and a mercy from Him. So believe in Allah and His Messengers, and say not '*They are* three.' Desist, *it will be* better for you. Verily, Allah is the only One God. Far is it from His Holiness that He should have a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And sufficient is Allah as a Guardian. **Al-Nisa' Chapter 4 : Verse 172**



ISLAM

Who is Jesus Christ in Islamic teachings?

Surely, the case of **Jesus** with Allah is like the case of Adam. He created him out of dust, then He said to him, 'Be!,' and he was. *Aal-e-`Imran Chapter 3 : Verse 60*

Such was Jesus, son of Mary. This is a statement of the truth about with they doubt. *Maryam Chapter 19: Verse 37*

The Jews call 'Uzair a son of God, and the Christians call Christ the son of God. That is saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. *God's curse be on them*: how they are deluded away from the truth! They take their priests and their anchorites to be their lords in derogation of God, and (they take as their Lord) Christ the son of Mary; yet they were commanded to worship but One God: there is no god but He. Praise and glory to Him. (far is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him) At-Tauba Chapter 9:30-31



ISLAM

Who is Jesus Christ in Islamic teachings?

And their saying, 'We did kill the Messiah, **Jesus**, son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah;' whereas they slew him not, nor crucified him, but he was made to appear to them like *one crucified*; and those who differ therein are certainly in *a state of* doubt about it; they have no *definite* knowledge thereof, but only follow a conjecture; and they did not convert this *conjecture* into a certainty; *Al-Nisa' Chapter 4 : Verse 158*

When Allah said, 'O **Jesus**, I will cause thee to die *a natural death* **and** will exalt thee to Myself, **and** will clear thee from *the charges of* those who disbelieve, **and** will place those who follow thee above those who disbelieve, until the Day of **Resurrection**; then to Me shall be your return, **and** I will judge between you concerning that wherein you differ. *Aal-e-`Imran Chapter 3 : Verse 56*



ISLAM

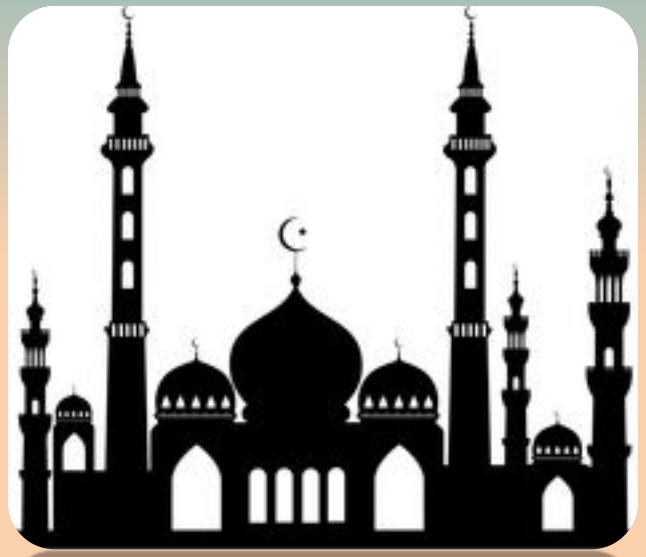
Who is Jesus Christ in Islamic teachings?

And call not on any other God beside Allah. There is no God but He. Everything will perish except Himself. His is the **judgement**, and to Him will you be brought back. *Al-Qasas Chapter 28 : Verse 89*

Those who conceal that which Allah has sent down of the Book and take in exchange for that a paltry price, they fill their bellies with nothing but fire. Allah will not speak to them on the Day of **Resurrection**, nor will He purify them. And for them is a grievous punishment. *Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 : Verse 175*

The life of this world is made *to appear* attractive to those who disbelieve; and they scoff at those who believe. But those who fear *God* shall be above them on the Day of **Resurrection**; and Allah bestows *His gifts* on whomsoever He pleases without reckoning. *Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 : Verse 213*

Week Three Doctrinal Comparisons





Sin and Salvation

Subject	Islam	Christianity
Sin	• Rebellion against God and ones-self • Result: Shame, embarrassment • Dishonor to family • People are inherently good. • Absolution comes by good works. • Man is good but listens to Evil	• Rebellion against God: • Resulting in Guilt • Requires God's forgiveness. • We are inherently fallen. • The penalty of sin in death. Jesus paid our penalty.
Salvation	• God saves those whom he chooses. • Faith and works are required. • We cannot be assured of salvation.	• Salvation is available to all who believe. • Our works cannot save us. • All who believe in Jesus will be saved.
Sanctification	• Based on rituals and obedience to the Qu'ran. • Keeping of the Five Pillars of Islam • External and ceremonial	• Based on our growth towards Christlikeness through the work of the Holy Spirit. • Inward, spiritual, based on a living relationship with God



Greater and Lesser Sins

Category of Sin	Characteristics	Eternal Implications
1. Unbelief (in Arabic: "kufr". Unbelief is the **greatest** sin of all. Some elements believe sinning is unbelief	• Denial in the existence and the activity of God. • In repudiation of Islam • In the worship of Gods other than Allah.	• Committing these sins and failing to repent will prevent one from entering Paradise. • This individual is relegated by God into the fires of Hell for all eternity.
2. Greater (or graver sins)	• Offenses such as the rebellion and disobedience of children against parents, murder, doubting God's forgiveness, incessant sin, calculation of God's grace, false testimony, magic, drinking alcohol, usury, adultery, homosexuality, theft, desertion	• Can be forgiven to a pious Muslim, for he can expect the mediation of the Prophet Muhammad at the Last Judgement
3. Lesser (or lighter) sins	• Those who avoid great sins and shameful deeds, only falling into small faults ……Sura 53:32	• Expiated by good deeds such as giving alms, additional fasting or prayers. God would never refuse Paradise to a Muslim committing lesser offences

The Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings, Schirrmacher, RVB International, 2001, p.36-37



The Meaning of Faith

- Faith, in the Koran, means to consider something 'to be sure and reliable' without doubting.
- Faith can only be given by God, and means above all, that a human acknowledges Allah's greatness and superiority, his position as God's servant, who owes Allah gratitude for His mercy towards man.
- **Koran divides humanity into two groups; the Muslims (the believers) and the non-Muslims (the unbelievers)**
- It is the faith of an individual that decides his fate at the Day of Judgement; whether he will enter Paradise or Hell.
- The Koran condemns those who call upon God only when in need or forget Him afterwards. Surah 39:8
- Islamic faith is more than mental agreement or a mechanical obedience of certain rules, but a dedication to God's will and recognition of His sovereignty.
- Surah 23:1-11 promises Paradise to the believer who prays humbly, who has no sexual relations to women other than his own wife and slaves and who uses wealth entrusted to him honestly, who does his duty and prays.

The Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings, Schirrmacher, RVB International, 2001, p.19-21



Islamic Confession of Faith

1. **The belief that there is only one God.**
2. **The belief that Muhammad is His Prophet.**
3. **The belief that every human being must appear before God at the Last Judgement.**

The Islamic View of Major Christian Teachings, Schirrmacher, RVB International, 2001, p.21

View of Sin and Salvation in the Words of the Qu'ran

42 'And O my people, how *strange* it is that I call you to **salvation**, and you call me to the Fire. **Al-Mu'min**

37. Then Adam received from his Lord Words . And his Lord pardoned him (accepted his repentance). Verily, He is the One Who forgives (accepts repentance), the Most Merciful. **Surah Al-Baqarah**

48. And fear a Day (of Judgement) when a person shall not avail another, nor will intercession be accepted from him nor will compensation be taken from him nor will they be helped. **Surah Al-Baqarah**

62. Verily! Those who believe and those who are Jews and Christians, and Sabians, whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and do righteous good deeds shall have their reward with their Lord, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve . **Surah Al-Baqarah**

3. Who believe in the *Ghaib* and perform *As-Salat* (*Iqamat-as-Salat*), and spend out of what we have provided for them [i.e. give *Zakat ,* spend on themselves, their parents, their children, their wives, etc., and also give charity to the poor and also in Allah's Cause ***- Jihad,*** etc.]. **Surah Al-Baqarah**

40. "Whosoever does an evil deed, will not be requited except the like thereof, and whosoever does a righteous deed, whether male or female and is a true believer (in the Oneness of Allah), such will enter Paradise, where they will be provided therein (with all things in abundance) without limit. **Al-Mu'min**

Five Pillars of Islam

- Islam is a <u>complete life system</u> built on faith, worship and community
- Five Pillars of Islam lead to sanctification in the Islamic World
- Not just symbolic, but guide daily behavior, foster spiritual growth, and Muslim unity worldwide.
- These are to be adhered to in conjunction with the *Qu'ran*
- These are to be followed by in the *Umma* (community)



Holy Books of Islam



- The Koran (Qu'ran) to be written and read in Arabic
- The Hadith (Sunna) – six iterations - First two are most quoted – first writing 870
- Parts of the Jewish and Christian Texts:
  - Torah
  - Zabour (Psalms)
  - Injil (Gospels)

The hadith literature is based on spoken reports that were in circulation in society after the death of Muhammad. Unlike the Quran itself, which was compiled under the official direction of the early Islamic State in Medina, the hadith reports were not compiled by a central authority. Hadith were evaluated and gathered into large collections during the 8th and 9th centuries, generations after the death of Muhammad, after the end of the era of the "rightful" Rashidun Caliphate, over 1,000 km (620 mi) from where Muhammad lived.

Muslim Afterlife

- Believe in the continued existence of the soul and a transformed physical existence after death
- Allah will raise all people and the dead on the “Last Day” or the ”Day of Standing Up’ in which all will judged.
- Until “The Day of Judgement” dead souls remain in the grace but have a foretaste of their destiny. Those bound to hell will suffer and those bound for heaven will experience peace.
- Allah will re-create the decayed body. (Qu’ran: “Could they not see that God created the heavens and the earth is able to created the like of them?”)

Day of Judgement

- Narrow bridge over Hell in order to enter Paradise
- Those who fall due to bad deeds remain in Hell forever.
- Hell (Jahannam) has seven doors. The level is dependent on the offenses.
- Unclear if Muslims remain in hell forever, however non-Muslims (Kafir) are punished eternally. Allah determines whose sins will be forgiven and released into paradise.
- There are two exceptions to this general rule outlined in the Qu'ran

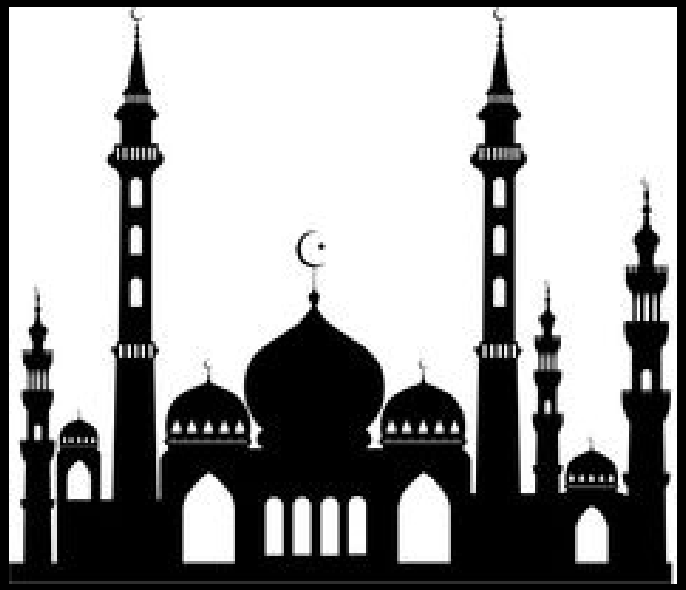
Exceptions

- Warriors who die fighting in the cause of Allah are ushered immediately to God's presence (Surrah 2:159 and Surah 3:169)
- Paradise for the above is described: "O soul who is at rest, return to thy Lord, well pleased with Him, we-pleasing Him. So enter among My servants, and enter My garden." (89:27-30)
- The garden is described in the Qu'ran as a place of physical and spiritual pleasure, with lofty mansions (39:20, 29:58-59), delicious food and drink (52:22, 52:19, 38:51), and virgin companions called houris (56:17-19, 52:24-25, 76:19, 56:35-38, 37:48-49, 38:52-54, 44:51-56, 52:20-21)
- There are seven heavens (17:46, 23:88, 41:11, 65:12)

Eschatology

- Mahdi: (Guided one) Islamic messianic figure
- Will appear before end-times to restore justice, abolish tyranny and unite the Muslim community
- Likened to the anti-Christ
- Does not appear in the Qu'ran, but is rooted in the prophetic tradition of the Hadith
- Towards the end of this life, the world will be in chaos; tyranny, oppression and injustice will prevail. According to many authentic hadiths, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) informed us that in this time that the Mahdi will take his role as a just ruler who will fill the earth with justice as it has been filled with oppression.
- When the Mahdi emerges, Muslims are required to follow his footsteps.

Source: EBSCO.com



Islam is a Political System

Islam's Relationship to Religion and Culture











"Islam is far more than a religion. It is an all-encompassing way of thinking. IT IS A CULTURE AND A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT." *M. YOUSSEF*

Islam After Muhammad the Religion Divides Politically

- 7th century Following the death of Muhammad the followers split over leadership which **married politics with the religion=culture**
- **Sunni** faction held fast to the doctrine of a **caliphate** of which there were no family ties to the Prophet



- **Shia** faction professed the doctrine of the **Imamate** – the leader must be a descendant of Muhammad and Ali (first Imam following founder's death.



Origin of Sharia Law

- Sharia is religion combined with cultural ideology designed to bring about ***Dar al Islam*** (House of submission)
- Seen to be needed to bring about continuity of legal practices and ensuring submission
- 9th century ***Muhammad ibn Idris al Shafli*** became the author of what would become know as "***Sharia Law***"
- Sharia means ***"the road to the watering hole"***
- Sharia law is based on four sources: ***1) Qu'ran, 2)Sunna or Prophet's teachings, 3)Ijma-consensus of the community, 4)Qiyas- analogical reasoning or deduction***
- ***A second form of practice developed – Sufism which claimed to go beyond the letter of the law to the divine source, God. They rejected the moralism of the leadership of the ulama*** (a body of Muslim scholars recognized as having specialist knowledge of Islamic sacred law and theology.)
- Suspicion by the traditionalists led to persecution and martyrdom of al-Hallaj



A Brief Explanation of Sharia Law

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shhiYMibHjo

The Dilemma





There is a component of Islam that is radical and out to establish Dar al Islam – Do we know much about a key driving force?





Do We Understand "Jihad"

- It is a holy war that really isn't
- Commonly culturally understood definition of Jihad: not attempt to convert people to Islam by force (except maybe in the 1st century of Islam).
- In reality it is an attempt to "expand and extend Islam until the whole world is under Muslim rule. The jihad is essentially a permanent state of hostility that Islam maintains against the rest of the world, with or without fighting for more sovereignty over more territory" (20). It is a duty, an obligation for all Muslims.

'Muslim Conquests from the 7th to the 21st Centuries', Paul Fregosi, Prometheus Books, New York, 1998



The Muslim Brotherhood



- Founded in 1928 by Hassan al-Banna, a believer in global Islamic domination.
- Mohamed Akram wrote concerning the Brotherhood in the US: The Brotherhood must understand that their work in America is a kind of grand *jihad* in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and "sabotaging" its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and God's religion is made victorious over all other religions. *Shariah:The Threat to America*
- Muslim Brotherhood Motto: **Allah is our objective, the Prophet is our leader, the Quran is our law, jihad is our way, and dying in way of Allah is our highest hope.**
- Brotherhood Purpose: 1) Implement *Sharia* worldwide, 2) Re-establish the global Islamic state (caliphate)



The Methodology of the Muslim Brotherhood

- Expand the Muslim presence by birth rate, immigration, and refusal to assimilate
- Occupy and expand domination of physical space
- Ensure the “Muslim Community” knows and follows MB doctrine
- Control the language non-Muslims are permitted to use in describing the enemy
- Ensure non-Muslims do not study their doctrine (*shariah*)
- Co-opt key leadership
- Force compliance with sharia at local levels
- Fight all counterterrorism efforts
- Subvert religious organizations
- Employ “lawfare” offense use and threats of lawsuits
- Claim victimization/demanding acomodations



MB Methodology Continued

- Condemn slander against Islam
- Subvert the US educations system and in particular infiltrate and dominate US Middle East and religious studies programs
- Demand the right to practice *shariah* in segregated Muslim enclaves.
- Demand recognition of *shariah* in non-Muslim spheres
- Confront and denounce Western society, laws, and traditions.
- Demand that *shariah* replace Western law

Shariah: The Threat to America, pp. 125-126

Ambivalence to what we believe combined with ignorance of the Muslim agenda calls us to?

To Know Truth Rather Than Fear









But I will warn you whom to fear: **fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell.** Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:5-7

So What Do We Do?





ISLAM

Begin by Separating the Truth from Deception

- Pray for discernment, Pray for courage, Pray for others, our neighbors.
- Be steeped in Holy Scriptures knowing what God has said through His prophets and His Son.
- Avoid being ambivalent about the manner in which Islam is presented in the schools, the media and our society.
- Take a measured approach to Islam, but do not ignore the potential mission field:
  - Be an “Authentic Christian.”
  - Reach out by speaking like Jesus



ISLAM

Unwise Assumptions in a Christian Response to Islam

- It is wrong to think we can transform lives and convert others to Christ.
- It is wrong to think we can win peoples to Christ through deceitful ways.
- It is not right to think that the local churches don't have a vision to reach out to Muslims.
- It is not right for Christians to witness to Muslims by taking advantage of weakness.
- It is uncharitable and counter productive to witness by attacking the Muslim faith.

Archbishop Mouneer Anis @ Mere Anglicanism, January 29, 2016

ISLAM

What Attracts Muslims to Inquire about Christianity?

1) Visions and dreams of Jesus.
2) The lifestyle of Christians and the way they love and respond to others.
3) The teachings of Christ, especially the Sermon on the Mount.
4) Healing and answers to prayer.

Archbishop Mouneer Anis, @Mere Anglicanism, January 29, 2016





ISLAM

A 9 Christian Responses

1) Be Fervent in Prayer.
2) Live by Faith and not by Fear.
3) Have Mutual Respect for the life of Muslims.
4) Be informed about your faith and that of Islam.
5) Recognize the spiritual nature of the issue.
6) Empower parents to refuse the indoctrination of their children.
7) Oppose the practice of Sharia Law
8) Befriend and stand with Muslims who want true reform or who wish to convert.
9) Form coalitions that help influence public policymakers

Lutzer, Erwin W., *The Cross in the Shadow of the Crescent*, (Harvest House, Eugene, OR)



ISLAM

Turning Responses into A Personal and Parish Plan

Because: "Therefore, We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us." *2 Corinthians 5:20*

- Make information available about Islam with our churches, as well as the wider community, including our local politicians and policymakers.
- Keep our churches informed about the persecution of Christians in Muslim countries and commit ourselves to praying for our brothers and sisters.
- **Support freedom of religion for the Muslims among us, but uphold the importance of respect for the laws of the land as affirmed by the US Constitution.**
- Oppose reprisals against those who convert from one religion to another and stand against threats and blasphemy laws that keep Muslims bound to their religion out of fear.
- Welcome Muslim converts to Christianity into our churches and nurture them in the faith as members of the Body of Christ.
- **Stand with parents who do not wish for their children to be indoctrinated by the whitewashed version of Islam in our schools.**

Lutzer, Erwin W., **The Cross in the Shadow of the Crescent**, (Harvest House, Eugene, OR)



ISLAM

Turning Responses into A Personal and Parish Plan

Because: "Therefore, We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us." *2 Corinthians 5:20*

- Oppose attempts to introduce partial implementation of sharia as a concession to Islam. Oppose the removal of crosses and crucifixes as a further concession to Islam.
- Stand against the passage of blasphemy laws that would make the legitimate criticism of Islam a crime. We believe in the first amendment and the open freedom to scrutinize and evaluate other religions or political ideologies.
- Work toward giving dignity to all women, and thus oppose Islam's practice of relegating women to an inferior status in society, the practice of forced marriages (often to underage girls), and the violence permitted against women per the Qu'ran (Sura 4:34)
- Reject concessions intended to appease Islamists in the hopes this will win greater cooperation and goodwill from Muslims.
- **<u>Most Importantly</u>, extend friendship to our Muslim neighbors, assuring them of our respect, personal availability, and love. Uphold the Gospel of Jesus Christ without coercion or rancor.**

Listen to Jesus' plea to us today……

ISLAM

The Plea of Jesus to be Faithful

Jesus is making a final plea to us today to believe what we say we believe and truly care that there are those who will spend eternity in hell……

"Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. **"***Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.*" Revelation 3:2-3

And yes we as the church must stand, alone if necessary and not count the cost:

"If God is with us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

"To me, to live in Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21





ISLAM

In the Face of Islam a Faithful Church Is:

1) **A Repentant Church** – ask God to point out the sins of which we need to repent.
2) **Be a witnessing Church** – Only love can overcome suspicion and hatred.
3) **Be a committed Church** – Be as committed to the Bible as Muslims are the Qu'ran.
4) **Be a sacrificial Church** – Are we willing to sacrifice ourselves for the other in the Body of Christ?

ISLAM

Now that we know…….What will we do?



"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20